

בס"ד

LECH LECHA

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LET'S STUDY RASHI

Gen. 17:5 “You will no longer be called Avram, but Avraham, for I have made you a father of a multitude of nations.”

Rashi: An acrostic of his name

(AV: father; HAM: from hamon – multitudes. But why not AVHAM?)

The *reish* - originally denoting he was father to Aram, whereas now he's father to entire world – wasn't moved from its place.

For even the *yud* in Sarai's name complained until it was added to Joshua.

REBBE'S QUESTIONS



- 1 The *yud* of Sarai was “moved from its place” to another person. Why?!
- 2 Why “For even...”
How is *yud* different from *reish*?
- 3 Why the unusual wording:
“wasn’t moved from its place”?

ANALYZING RASHI'S NUANCES:

FROM AVRAM TO AVRAHAM:

“Originally father to Aram;
now father to entire world.”



Was ‘father to Aram’;
now to entire world.
Prior status remains.
Hence, *reish* retains “its place.”

FROM SARAI TO SARAH:

“Sarai denotes ‘my ruler’;
Sarah means ‘ruler over all’.”



Was not in fact Abraham’s ruler.
Hence, *yud* has no place here.

NOTE:

Original names given by Terach & Haran are not necessarily meaningful.

BUT WHAT ABOUT...

**“Whatever Sarah tells you,
listen to her voice”**

(Gen. 21:12)

- This occurred much later, after Isaac's birth
- It was a novelty, not necessarily the rule

BY THE WAY...

Year 2 after Exodus:

“And Moses called Hoshea
son of Nun, Yehoshua”

(Num. 13:16).

38 years later:

“Moses spoke words of this song,
with Hoshea son of Nun.”

(Deut. 32:44)

Sarah's age when yud is removed:

89

Sarah's life span:

127

SARAH WITHOUT YUD: 38 YEARS
FROM “YEHOSHUA” TO “HOSHEA”: 38 YEARS

RASHI'S "WINE OF TORAH"



RASHI'S LITERAL MEANING:

Avram: 'Father of Aram'

Avraham: 'Father of multitude of nations'

Rashi: Reish of Avram wasn't moved from its place.

CHASSIDIC DIMENSION:

"Exalted father" =
"hidden superior wisdom"

Wisdom made accessible
to entire world

Without losing its lofty 'place'
of "hidden superior wisdom"